

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An email/fax~~ A communication system for use in a packet switching network environment including a mail server for storing email messages for transmission thereof, in the form of a fax document, to at least one recipient fax machine, comprising:

a mail server configured to store one or more email messages; and
a router for receiving a first email message, in the form of packets, from the mail server, network processing device for converting the a first email message from the mail server packets to facsimile information original fax pages of a fax document, for and transmitting the facsimile information original fax pages to one or more remote facsimile devices a recipient fax machine, where the network processing device detects a failure in the transmission of the facsimile information to at least one of the remote facsimile devices and transmits a second email message including at least a first portion of the first email message to the mail server responsive to the detected failure and upon failure to successfully transmit all of the pages of the fax document to the recipient fax machine, transmitting failed fax pages, defined by those fax pages of the fax document that failed to be successfully transmitted to the recipient fax machine, in the form of a secondary email message comprising secondary email packets, to the mail server for future retransmission of the failed faxed pages to the recipient fax machine.

2. - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting facsimile information transmission of fax documents generated from email messages in a packet switching network environment comprising:

receiving a first email message comprising of first email packets, from a mail server;
converting the first email message packets into fax pages of a fax document;
transmitting the fax pages to a recipient fax machine;
upon failure to successfully transmit the fax pages of the fax document to the recipient fax machine, converting failed fax pages, defined by those fax pages of the fax document that failed to be successfully transmitted to the recipient fax machine, into secondary email packets wherein, upon conversion to fax pages, for transmission thereof to the recipient fax machine; and

transmitting one or more of the first email message packets to the mail server for future re-transmission thereof to the recipient fax machine.

8. – 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting facsimile information ~~transmission of fax documents generated from email messages in a packet switching network environment~~ comprising:

receiving a first email message, in the form of packets;
converting the first email message packets into first fax pages of a fax document;
transmitting the first fax pages to a recipient fax machine;
upon failure to successfully transmit at least one of the first fax pages of the fax document to the recipient fax machine, converting the failed fax pages into secondary email packets for re-transmission thereof to the recipient fax machine; and
transmitting one or more of the ~~first~~ first email message packets to a destination other than the recipient fax machine.

16. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for transmission of fax documents~~ as recited in claim 15 further comprising the steps of receiving a first envelope information for identification of the source, destination and header information associated with the first email message and storing the first envelope information.

17. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for transmission of fax documents~~ as recited in claim 15 including the step of transmitting the first email message to multiple recipient fax machines.

18. (Canceled)

19. (New) The communications system according to claim 1 wherein the first portion of the first email message included within the second email message corresponds to the facsimile information that was unsuccessfully transmitted as a result of the failure.

20. (New) The communications system according to claim 19 wherein the network processing device reconverts the unsuccessfully transmitted facsimile information into an email message format for inclusion within the second email message.

21. (New) The communications system according to claim 1 wherein the second email message identifies the one or more remote facsimile devices that correspond to the detected failure.

22. (New) The communications system according to claim 21 wherein the network processing device receives at least some of the information within the second email message back from the mail server, converts the information into facsimile information, and transmits the facsimile information to the one or more identified remote facsimile devices.

23. (New) The communications system according to claim 21 wherein another network processing device receives at least some of the information within the second email message from the mail server, converts the information into facsimile information, and transmits the facsimile information to the one or more identified remote facsimile devices.

24. (New) The communications system according to claim 1 wherein the network processing device detects another failure in the transmission of the facsimile information corresponding to at least one of the remote facsimile devices and transmits a third email message including at least a portion of the first email message to the mail server responsive to the other detected failure.

25. (New) The communications system according to claim 24 wherein the third email message identifies which of the remote facsimile devices corresponds to the other detected failure.

26. (New) A device comprising:

- a first interface for exchanging one or more email messages with a mail server;
- a translator configured to convert a first email message from the mail server into facsimile information; and
- a second interface for transmitting the facsimile information to one or more remote facsimile devices, where the first interface transmits a second email message that includes at

least a portion of the first email message to the mail server responsive to a failure in the transmission of the facsimile information to at least one of the remote facsimile devices.

27. (New) The device according to claim 26 wherein the portion of the first email message included within the second email message corresponds to the facsimile information that was unsuccessfully transmitted as a result of the failure.

28. (New) The device according to claim 27 wherein the translator reconverts the unsuccessfully transmitted facsimile information into an email message format for inclusion within the second email message.

29. (New) The device according to claim 26 wherein the second email message identifies which of the one or more remote facsimile devices corresponds to the failure.

30. (New) The device according to claim 29 wherein the first interface receives the second email message from the mail server, the translator converts the second email message into facsimile information, and the second interface transmits the facsimile information to the one or more identified remote facsimile devices.

31. (New) The device according to claim 26 wherein the first interface transmits a third email message including at least a portion of the first email message to the mail server responsive to the another failure in the transmission of the facsimile information to at least another one of the remote facsimile devices.

32. (New) The device according to claim 31 wherein the third email message identifies which of the one or more remote facsimile devices corresponds to the another failure.

33. (New) A device comprising:

means for converting a first email message from a mail server into facsimile information;

means for transmitting the facsimile information to one or more remote facsimile devices;

means for identifying a failure in the transmission of the facsimile information to at least one of the remote facsimile devices; and

means for transmitting a second email message including at least a portion of the first email message to the mail server responsive to the identified failure.

34. (New) The device according to claim 33 wherein the portion of the first email message included within the second email message corresponds to the facsimile information that was unsuccessfully transmitted as a result of the failure.

35. (New) The device according to claim 34 including means for reconvertng the unsuccessfully transmitted facsimile information into an email message format for inclusion within the second email message.

36. (New) The device according to claim 33 wherein the second email message identifies which of the one or more remote facsimile devices corresponds to the identified failure.

37. (New) The device according to claim 36 including
means for receiving the second email message from the mail server,
means for converting the second email message into facsimile information; and
means for transmitting the facsimile information to the one or more identified remote facsimile devices.

38. (New) The device according to claim 33 including
means for identifying another failure in the transmission of the facsimile information corresponding to at least one of the remote facsimile devices; and
means for transmitting a third email message including at least a portion of the first email message to the mail server responsive to the another identified failure.

39. (New) The device according to claim 38 wherein the third email message identifies which of the one or more remote facsimile devices corresponds to the another identified failure.

40. (New) A method comprising:
converting a first email message from a mail server into facsimile information;
transmitting the facsimile information to one or more remote facsimile devices;

detecting a failure in the transmission of the facsimile information to at least one of the remote facsimile devices; and

transmitting a second email message including at least a portion of the first email message to the mail server responsive to the detected failure.

41. (New) The method according to claim 40 wherein the portion of the first email message included within the second email message corresponds to the facsimile information that was unsuccessfully transmitted as a result of the failure.

42. (New) The method according to claim 41 includes reconvertng the unsuccessfully transmitted facsimile information into an email message format for inclusion within the second email message.

43. (New) The method according to claim 40 wherein the second email message identifies which of the one or more remote facsimile devices corresponds to the detected failure.

44. (New) The method according to claim 43 includes
receiving the second email message from the mail server,
converting the second email message into facsimile information; and
transmitting the facsimile information to the one or more identified remote facsimile devices.

45. (New) The method according to claim 40 including
detecting another failure in the transmission of the facsimile information
corresponding to at least one of the remote facsimile devices; and
transmitting a third email message including at least a portion of the first email message to the mail server responsive to the another detected failure.

46. (New) The method according to claim 45 wherein the third email message identifies which of the one or more remote facsimile devices corresponds to the another detected failure.

47. (New) An apparatus including a computer-readable medium containing computer instructions that, when executed, cause a processor or multiple communicating processors to perform a method comprising:

- converting a first email message from a mail server into facsimile information;
- transmitting the facsimile information to one or more remote facsimile devices;
- identifying a failure in the transmission of the facsimile information to at least one of the remote facsimile devices; and
- transmitting a second email message including at least a portion of the first email message to the mail server responsive to the identified failure.

48. (New) The apparatus according to claim 47 wherein the portion of the first email message included within the second email message corresponds to the facsimile information that was unsuccessfully transmitted as a result of the failure.

49. (New) The apparatus according to claim 48 includes reconvertng the unsuccessfully transmitted facsimile information into an email message format for inclusion within the second email message.

50. (New) The apparatus according to claim 47 wherein the second email message identifies which of the one or more remote facsimile devices corresponds to the identified failure.

51. (New) The apparatus according to claim 50 includes

- receiving the second email message from the mail server,
- converting the second email message into facsimile information; and
- transmitting the facsimile information to the one or more identified remote facsimile devices.

52. (New) The apparatus according to claim 47 including

- identifying another failure in the transmission of the facsimile information corresponding to at least one of the remote facsimile devices; and
- transmitting a third email message including at least a portion of the first email message to the mail server responsive to the another detected failure.

53. (New) The apparatus according to claim 52 wherein the third email message identifies which of the one or more remote facsimile devices corresponds to the another identified failure.

54. (New) A device comprising:

a first interface configured to transmit a first email message for distribution to one or more intended recipients; and

a second interface configured to receive a second email message including at least a portion of the first email message that identifies a first set of the intended recipients that failed to receive the portion of the first email message.

55. (New) The device according to claim 54 wherein the first interface transmits a third email message for distribution to the first set of intended recipients.

56. (New) The device according to claim 55 wherein the first interface transmits the first and third email messages to different network processing devices.

57. (New) The device according to claim 54 wherein the second interface receives a fourth email message including another portion of the first email message that identifies a second set of the intended recipients that failed to receive the portion of the first email message included within the fourth email message.

58. (New) A device comprising:

means for transmitting a first email message for distribution to one or more intended recipients; and

means for receiving a second email message including at least a portion of the first email message that identifies a first set of the intended recipients that failed to receive the portion of the first email message.

59. (New) The device according to claim 58 including means for transmitting a third email message for distribution to the first set of intended recipients.

60. (New) The device according to claim 59 wherein the means for transmitting the first email message transmits the first email message to a first network processing device and the

means for transmitting the third email message transmits the third email message to a second network processing device.

61. (New) The device according to claim 58 including means for receiving a fourth email message including another portion of the first email message that identifies a second set of the intended recipients that failed to receive the other portion of the first email message included within the fourth email message.

62. (New) A method comprising:

transmitting a first email message for distribution to one or more intended recipients;

and

receiving a second email message including at least a portion of the first email message that identifies a first set of the intended recipients that failed to receive the portion of the first email message.

63. (New) The method according to claim 62 including transmitting a third email message for distribution to the first set of intended recipients.

64. (New) The method according to claim 63 including transmitting the first and third email message to different network processing devices.

65. (New) The method according to claim 62 including receiving a fourth email message including another portion of the first email message that identifies a second set of the intended recipients that failed to receive the other portion of the first email message included within the fourth email message.

66. (New) An apparatus including a computer-readable medium containing computer instructions that, when executed, cause a processor or multiple communicating processors to perform a method comprising:

transmitting a first email message for distribution to one or more intended recipients;

and

receiving a second email message including at least a portion of the first email message that identifies a first set of the intended recipients that failed to receive the portion of the first email message.

67. (New) The apparatus according to claim 66 including transmitting a third email message for distribution to the first set of intended recipients.

68. (New) The apparatus according to claim 67 including transmitting the first and third email message to different network processing devices.

69. (New) The apparatus according to claim 66 including receiving a fourth email message including another portion of the first email message that identifies a second set of the intended recipients that failed to receive the other portion of the first email message included within the fourth email message.

70. (New) The communications system according to claim 1 wherein the network processing device detects the failure in the transmission of the facsimile information to a first remote facsimile device and continues transmitting the facsimile information to one or more of the other remote facsimile devices.